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Newspaper Clipping: Restored building improves functionality

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The University Leader

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Sept. 28, 2000 The University Leader

Restored building improves functionality

AMANDA HOLLEY

The Leader

The rededication of Albertson Hall and the "Toiling Fell" plaque is set to take place at 9 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 30, in front of the north entrance of Albertson Hall in conjunction with Homecoming festivities.

This event will take place as part of FHSU's five-year Centennial Celebration, which will culminate in 2002.

There will be several speakers at the event including Edward H. Hammond, president; Kent Steward, director of University Relations; Tony Fernandez, dean of the College of Health and Life Sciences; and Lois Lee Myerly, retired FHSU faculty member.

The internal renovation of Albertson Hall was completed in late May this year and now the time has come to show off the new facilities to alumni and friends of FHSU.

As many students and faculty alike have noticed, the two-year project, which cost an estimated \$7.8 million, has resulted in a completely modernized and technologically advanced facility.

Occupants of the building include the departments of agriculture, allied health, biology and communications disorders.

The dean of Health and Life Sciences Office is also located in the building.

"The entire building is greatly improved both aesthetically and functionally. The 'crumbling classroom monies' have allowed us to make vast improvements throughout," Fernandez said.

"You need essentially three components to have a solid foundation: excellent students, faculty and facilities. Through these renovations the third component has finally been solidified," Fernandez said.

"I have thought on many occasions as I look around the building that the renovations that have been made greatly exceeded our expectations.

"It's definitely what we wanted and more." Robert

Nicholson, biology department chair, said. Through renovations the biology department was able to obtain a cadaver lab among other things, which should prove to be very useful to its program.

The communications disorders and allied health departments have enjoyed increased space in their clinical practices as well as easier accessibility for their patients.

"The communications disorders department has enhanced much of its technology in its clinical areas which should integrate nicely into student experience," Marcia Bannister, communications disorders department chair, said.

According to James Cho, allied health department chair, they are now able to offer a stroke wellness and research center at little or no cost to patients as well.

Many aspects of the agriculture department have also been improved including the addition

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Tony Fernandez

College of Health and Life Sciences

of another laboratory and a mediated computer lab which doubles as an instructional classroom.

"The increased

space has allowed many improvements and a wider variety of opportunities for students to utilize in order to further their education here at FHSU," John Greathouse, agriculture department chair, said.

For those interested, there will be self-guided tours through Albertson Hall following the ceremony. Several faculty and students will also be around to answer any questions.

The "To Our Teachers Who Toiling Fell" plaque, which is also to be rededicated at this ceremony, is located in Forsyth Library.

This plaque honors and commemorates faculty members who have passed away while still in service to the university.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend this event as well as the other festivities that will be going on throughout Homecoming weekend.